

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION IX  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

May 9, 2007

Mr. James Peña, Forest Supervisor  
Plumas National Forest  
159 Lawrence Street  
P.O. Box 11500  
Quincy, CA 95971-6025

Subject: Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Watdog Project, Feather River Ranger District, Plumas National Forest, Butte and Plumas Counties, California (CEQ # 20070126)

Dear Mr. Peña:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above-referenced Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and our NEPA review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

EPA reviewed the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) and provided comments to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) on October 16, 2006. We rated the DSEIS as Environmental Concerns - Insufficient Information (EC-2) because of concerns regarding cumulative watershed effects. We recommended the selection of Alternative D, or a less harvest intensive Alternative B, as a way to reduce impacts to riparian resources, water quality, soils, and native plants (from noxious weeds). Alternative D also meets minimum habitat levels for forest carnivores, the California spotted owl, and the northern goshawk.

EPA has reviewed the FSEIS and notes the selection of Alternative B without change. We continue to express concerns regarding cumulative impacts to watersheds and short-term impacts to old-forest species, and continue to recommend a less-intensive harvest alternative.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this SFEIS and ROD. If you have any questions, please contact me at (415) 972-3846 or Karen Vitulano, the lead reviewer for this project. Karen can be reached at 415-947-4178 or [vitulano.karen@epa.gov](mailto:vitulano.karen@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/

Nova Blazej, Manager  
Environmental Review Office